

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2020

The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer  
United States Trade Representative  
Office of United States Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20006

The Honorable Wilbur Ross  
Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Dept. of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer & Secretary Ross,

We write to you as our health care system and economy are under tremendous strain. We are pleased that you took the initial step of opening 301 tariffs up for additional comments, however, we feel that this move alone is not enough to stop the harm that is being done to our health care system and economy. We request that you temporarily suspend tariffs or at least greatly expedite and simplify the tariff exclusion process during this difficult time. Immediate tariff relief will have numerous positive effects, including reducing disruptions to existing supply chains and easing the economic burden on our companies and their workers.

Additionally, we ask that you coordinate with all relevant federal agencies to provide sensible tariff relief for American small businesses and consumers. As disruptions to the global supply chain continue to grow, it is imperative that this cooperative effort on tariff relief be done with the utmost urgency.

For those companies already weakened by additional tariffs over the past two years, their ability to ride out this health and economic crisis is precarious. For families filling their pantries today but uncertain of their future employment, the tariffs are costly taxes. Tariff duties continue to threaten the economic well-being of families across the country and the viability of our health care, manufacturing, retail, and food sectors. Tariffs will in certain circumstances only serve to weaken the ability of companies to make payroll and keep assembly lines running. Though we have differing views on the effectiveness of the tariffs, it is important to note that we are not asking for permanent rollbacks at this time. Instead, we are asking for you to provide temporary relief for our constituents during this public health crisis.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress



Terri Sewell  
Member of Congress